के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में इस वर्ष के दौरान देश में कपास का उत्पादन अधिक होने की संभावना है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में कपास की अनुमानित वार्षिक मांग कितनी है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री भजन लाल) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) कपास परामर्श बोर्ड के अनुसार कपास वर्ष 1988-89 के लिए कपास की घरेलू आवश्यकता 100.5 लाख गांठें होने का अनुमान है।

Price of Wheat

*320. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sudden spurt in the price of wheat during the last few months;

(b) if so, what is the percentage rise in wheat prices in the country during the last three months and what are the factors responsible for the rise;

(c) whether nation-wide raids have been conducted on the suspected hoarders creating scarcity in the market if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to import more wheat to check the wheat prices, if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The prices of wheat have exhibited a rising trend during the last three months. The W.P. Index for wheat rose by 11 per trend during the last three months. The increase is mainly due to the spill-over effects of the severe drought last year, seasonality factors, and loss/disruption due to floods in Punjab.

(c) As per reports available from States|UTs. 75,769 raids have been conducted between 1-1-1988 and 30-10-1988 to enforce the provisions of E.C. Act including measures for dehoarding.

(d) The decision regarding import of further quantities of wheat will be taken after the production picture of the current kharif becomes clearer as better availability of rice and other cereals could ease pressure on demand for wheat.

Foreign collaborations in food processing sector

@2590. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign collaborations in the food processing sector have been approved in the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) how many of these collaborations involved technical fees alone and how many involved equity participation;

(c) the estimated outflow of foreign exchange by companies in the food processing sector on account of foreign collaborations; and

(d) what are the details of the project reports and the agreements signed with the units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1610, transferred from the 24th November, 1988.